

California Condor Restoration Plan/
Environmental Assessment
Public Scoping Meetings



- Welcome
- Public open house to provide project background and opportunity to comment



What is the Project

The NPS, USFWS, and Yurok Tribe are partnering to develop a California condor restoration program in Redwood National Park within Yurok Ancestral Territory.

This project would contribute to California condor recovery and would return the condor to a portion of its historical range.



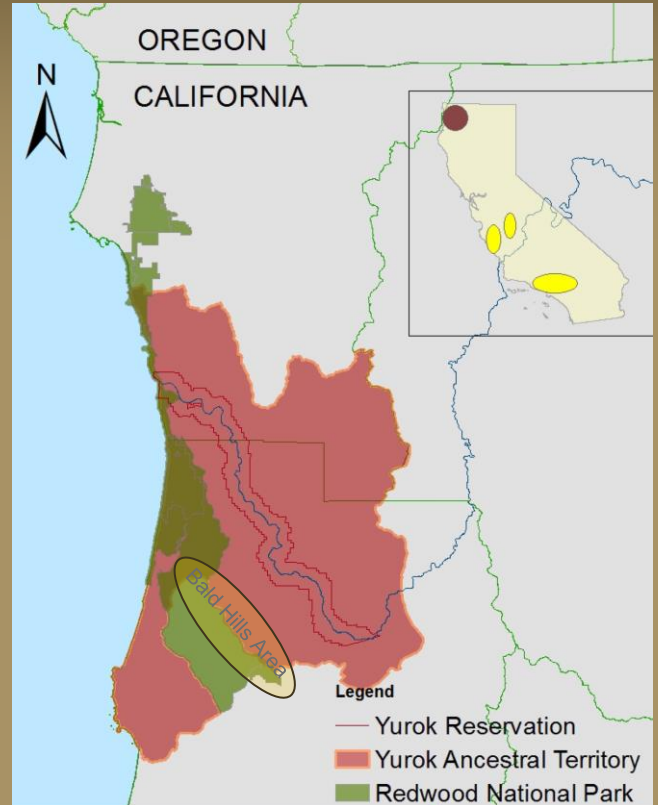
NPS Photo by Gavin Emmons

What is the Purpose

Establish a thriving population of California condors in their historical range through a restoration program centered at Redwood National Park.

What is the Need

- Further recovery of the condor
- Contribute to NPS restoration goals
- Contribute to Yurok cultural restoration



Memorandum of Understanding on Condor Conservation

- Yurok Tribe
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- California State Parks
- Ventana Wildlife Society
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- Pacific Power Company
- Green Diamond Resource Company
- Oregon Zoo
- Sequoia Park Zoo
- Oakland Zoo
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Hells Canyon Preservation Council



Condor Recovery

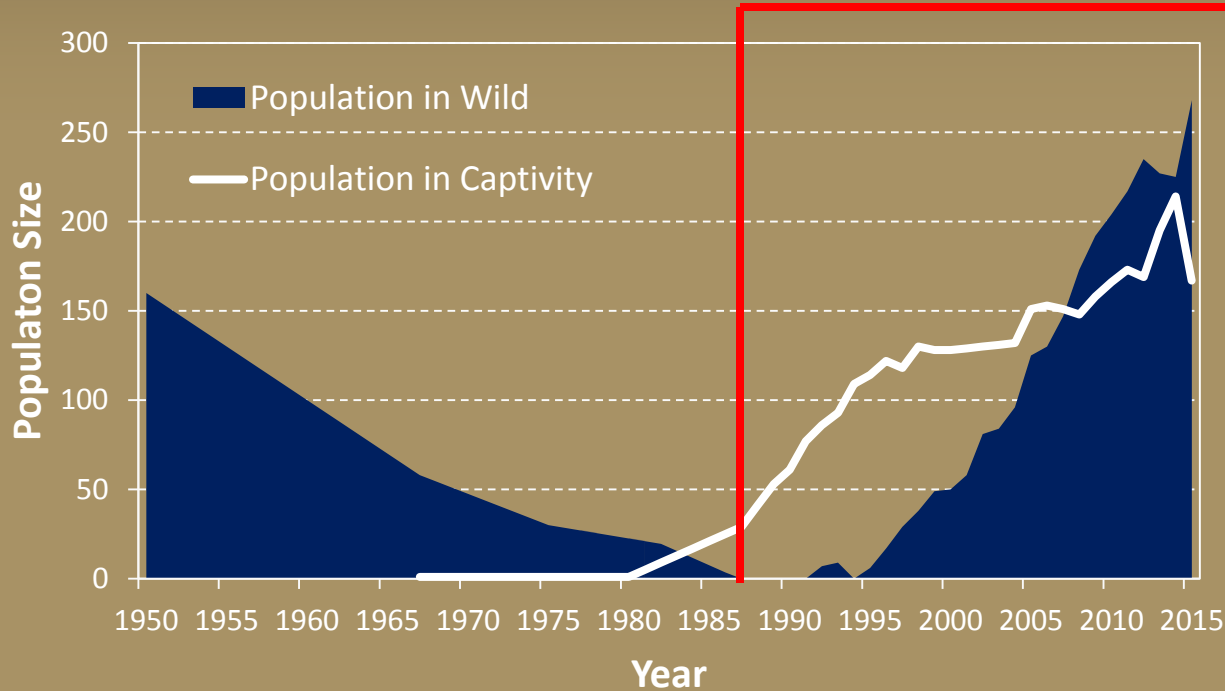
- Condors are long-lived and have very slow rates of reproduction.
- Elevated mortality rates from secondary poisoning and shooting severely reduced their populations and distribution in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Captive breeding initiated in the 1980s to save them from extinction.



FWS photo

Condor Recovery

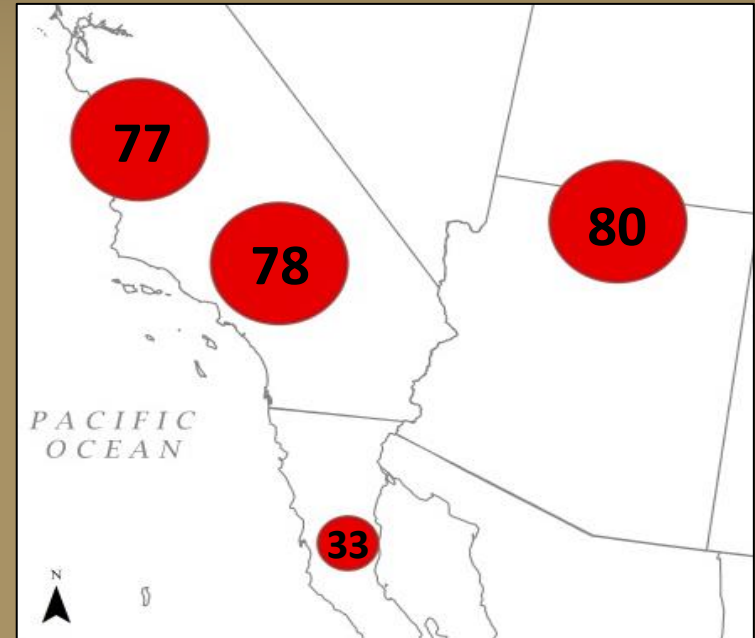
1987 – last wild condor captured
for captive breeding program



FWS photo

Condor Recovery

- Captive breeding has been very effective
- In 2015, the condor population reached 435 birds, with 268 in the wild
- Four reintroduced populations are managed cooperatively by many recovery partners



Number of Condors in the wild, by release area, 2015

Recovery and Renewal – in Partnership

Yurok are undergoing a cultural renaissance

- Condor restoration is an expression of Yurok sovereignty, and expanding management capacity.
- Growing in *partnership*, meeting both tribal and Park goals for restoration, and creating a model for cooperation, commitment, and recovery.



Alternatives Analysis

- The identification, consideration, and analysis of alternatives are key to the NEPA process
- For this project we have preliminarily identified a no action alternative and 2 action alternatives
- We are seeking your input on these alternatives

Action Alternative 1: Establish a Condor Restoration Program, Consider the Restoration Population an Experimental Population

A condor restoration program would be established and centered at Redwood National Park. This would include:

- The construction of a release facility.
- The infrastructure and associated facilities would include a flight pen, freezer, office space, storage space, and housing.

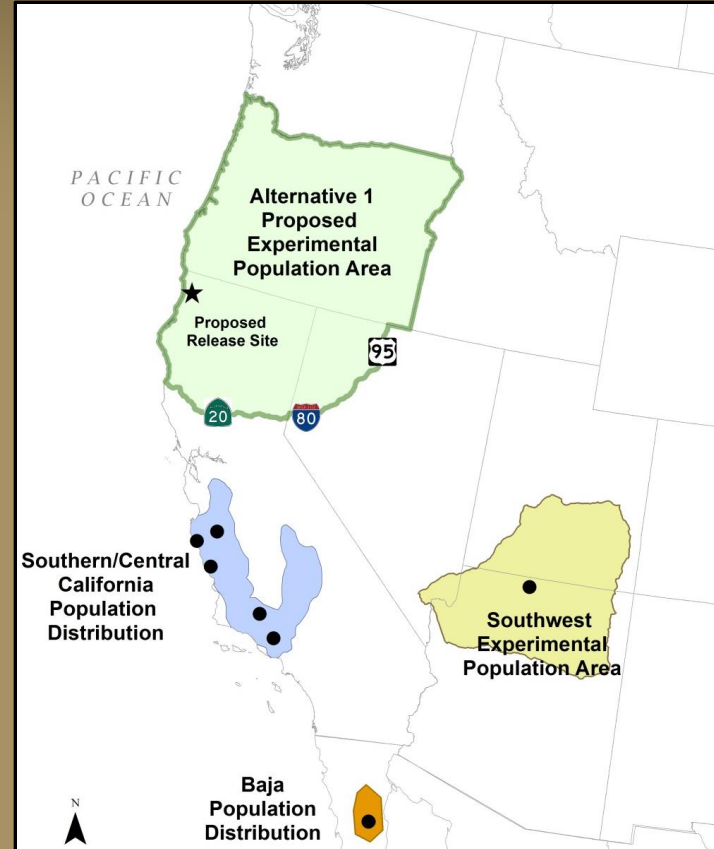
Under Alternative 1, the restored population would be designated an “experimental population” by the USFWS.

Alternative 1 - Experimental Population

- Special designation under the Endangered Species Act
- Allows the US Fish and Wildlife Service to customize protective regulations to:
 - Reduce impacts to stakeholders
 - Ensure the reintroduction is likely to be successful

Alternative 1 – Experimental Population

- We are seeking your input on:
 - Whether to designate a reintroduced population as experimental
 - The geographic extent of the Experimental Population Area
 - What should be prohibited or allowed under customized protective regulations



Action Alternative 2: Establish a Condor Restoration Program, Without Establishing an Experimental Population

- Alternative 2 would be the same as Alternative 1, however, the restored population would not be designated as an “experimental population” by the USFWS. Birds in this population would be endangered under the Endangered Species Act.



Examples of Condor Release Facilities



Bald Hills in Redwood National Park

Condor Reintroduction at Redwood

Project Timeline

- January/February 2017 Public Scoping
- Spring/Summer 2017 Preparation of EA
- Summer 2017 Public Comment on EA
- Fall 2017 – Finalize NEPA
- Fall 2018 – Complete Regulatory Compliance (e.g., issuance of 10(a)(1)(A) permits and California 2081a permits)
- 2019 – Project implementation and release of first condors at Redwood



Thank You

Please let us know what you think

- NPS Planning
Environmental
Public
Comment
(PEPC) Website
- Comment Cards

